5. If any party is subject to coverage by an insurance carrier, then a representative of the insurance carrier with authority to settle this matter up to the full amount of the claim or last demand.<sup>2</sup>

Any request for an exception to the above personal attendance requirements must be filed and served on all parties within seven (7) days of the issuance of this order. Such a request will be strictly scrutinized for a showing of compelling justification.

## PREPARATION FOR SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

In preparation for the settlement conference, each party shall submit a confidential settlement conference statement for in camera review. The statement shall contain the following:

- 1. A brief statement of the nature of the action.
- 2. The names of the people who will attend the settlement conference.
- 3. A <u>concise summary</u> of the evidence that supports your theory of the case, including the names of individuals disclosed pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1)(A)(i), the Rule 26(a)(1)(A)(ii) computation of damages, and the Rule 26(a)(1)(A)(iv) insurance information. You <u>must provide</u> all information which documents or supports your damages claims. Copies of medical records or treatment records need not be submitted but, rather, shall be provided in a table or summary format.
- 4. Attachment of any documents or exhibits that are relevant to key factual or legal issues, including selected pages from deposition transcripts or responses to discovery requests.
- 5. Analysis of the key issues involved in the litigation. The analysis must include a discussion of the strongest points in your case, both legal and factual, <u>and a frank discussion of the weakest points as well</u>. The Court expects you to present a thorough analysis of the key issues and candid evaluation of the merits of your case.
- 6. Identification and explanation of any obstacles to settlement, e.g. medical liens, statutory caps, or motions pending before the Court.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Settlement conferences are closed to the public. Non-parties, including family members, are not permitted to attend.

- 7. The history of settlement discussions, if any, which have occurred in this case. Provide any demands, offers, or offers of judgment that have been made and, if applicable, the reasons they have been rejected. Attach a copy of all settlement correspondence, including all written demands or offers and responses thereto.
- 8. The initial settlement proposal that will be presented at the settlement conference with a justification for any monetary amount. The proposal must include any non-monetary settlement terms that will be presented.

The settlement conference statements shall be submitted, in an envelope marked "Confidential," <u>directly to the undersigned's box in the Clerk's Office</u> not later than **3:00 p.m. on**June 10, 2020. DO NOT SERVE A COPY ON OPPOSING COUNSEL.

The purpose of the settlement statement is to assist the undersigned Magistrate Judge in preparing for and conducting the settlement conference. In order to facilitate a meaningful conference, your <u>utmost candor</u> in responding to all of the above-listed questions is required. **The settlement conference statement will remain confidential.** If this case does not settle, the settlement conference statement will not be disclosed to the judge who ultimately presides over the trial. Each statement will be securely maintained in my chambers, and will be destroyed following the conference.

In addition to the above requirements, the parties and counsel must be substantially prepared to meaningfully participate in the Settlement Conference in good faith.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS ORDER WILL SUBJECT THE NON-COMPLIANT PARTY AND/OR COUNSEL TO SANCTIONS UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 16(f).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 31, 2020

Nancy J. Koppe United States Magistrate Judge